and presently call the rest of the watch together, and thanke god you are ridde of a knaue.

Verges If he wil not stand when he is bidden, he is none of the Princes subiects.

Dogbery True, and they are to meddle with none but the Princes subiects: you shall also make no noise in the streetes: for, for the watch to babble and to talke, is most tollerable, and not to be indured.

Watch We will rather sleepe than talke, we know what belongs to a watch.

Dogbery Why you speake like an antient and most quiet watchman, for I cannot see how sleeping should offend: onely haue a care that your billes bee not stolne: well, you are to cal at al the alehouses, and bid those that are drunke get them to bed.

Watch How if they will not?

Dogbery Why then let them alone til they are sober, if they make you not then the better answer, you may say, they are not the men you tooke them for.

Watch Well sir.

Dogbery If you meete a thiefe, you may suspect him, by vertue of your office, to be no true man: and for such kind of men, the lesse you meddle or make with them, why the more is for your honesty.

Watch If we know him to be a thiefe, shal we not lay hands on him?

Dogbery Truely by your office you may, but I thinke they that touch pitch will be defilde: the most peaceable way for you, if you doe take a thiefe, is, to let him shew himselfe what he is, and steale out of your companie.

Verges You haue beene alwayes called a mercifull manne, partner.

Dog. Truely I would not hang a dogge by my will, much more a man who hath anie honestie in him.

Verges If you heare a child crie in the night you must call to the nurse and bid her stil it.

Watch How if the nurse be asleepe and will not heare vs.

Dog.

Dog. Why then depart in peace, an with crying, for the ewe that will no baes, will neuer answer a calfe when h

Verges Tis very true.

Dog. This is the end of the charg presen the princes owne person, if yo night, you may stay him.

Verges Nay birlady that I thinke a

Dog. Fiue shillings to one on't wi the statutes, he may stay him, mary n willing, for indeed the watch ought to an offence to stay a man against his w

Verges Birlady I thinke it be so.

Dog. Ha ah ha, wel masters good matter of weight chaunces, cal vp m counsailes, and your owne, and go bour.

Watch Well masters, we heare ou here vppon the church bench till bed.

Dog. One word more, honest neig about signior Leonatoes doore, for th morrow, there is a great coyle to nigh seech you.

Enter Borachio and C

Bor. What Conrade?

Watch Peace, stir not.

Bor. Conrade I say.

Con. Here man, I am at thy elbow

Bor. Mas and my elbow itcht, I scabbe follow.

Con. I will owe thee an answer fo with thy tale.

Bor. Stand thee close then vnde drissells raine, and I will, like a true thee.

Watch Some treason masters, yet

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Much Ado About Nothing* (STC 22304) LONDON, 1600 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH